

The Fort Erie Times

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Thursday, December 22, 2016



Meals on
Wheels
delivers **2**



Golfer
hopes to
continue at
Rio Vista **3**

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Sounds of the season



Grade 3 students at St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School in Stevensville sing Deck the Halls during Monday night's Christmas concert. It was the first of many performances the show had on its program.

Kris Dube/Special to the Times



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Bryan Craig (Santa Claus), Dave Jacobs and Meals on Wheels executive director Nancy Ryan know there are people in Fort Erie who could benefit from the delivery of nutritious meals if they were aware of the program.

Kris Dube/Special to the Times

Meals on Wheels helps seniors, at Christmas and all year round

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

Something as simple as wearing a Santa Claus costume while doing volunteer work can add a special touch.

For more than five years, Bryan Craig has been one of many community-minded individuals who donate their time to Fort Erie Meals on Wheels. Last Wednesday he

donned his Father Christmas gear and helped deliver nutritional meals to 159 seniors in Greater Fort Erie.

"It's just great when you get to their homes and see the smiles on your faces," said Craig before heading out with his fellow volunteers, after loading up at Meals on Wheels' office located at St. Paul's Anglican Church.

Last year, the local agency

delivered 17,740 meals around town. Executive director Nancy Ryan says the primary goal is to provide fresh, well-balanced meals to the seniors.

"Our goal is to keep them home and keep them independent so that they don't have to go to long-term care."

There are 217 clients enrolled in the program, a

number that is much lower than it should be considering the size of Fort Erie's elderly population, says Ryan. She feels promoting Meals on Wheels at all the right venues and through more medical professionals is needed for more people to sign up.

"We're trying to be everywhere we can with our information to show that we're

here," said Ryan.

The bulk of Meals on Wheels' local budget depends on the organization's many fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Provincial funding is also received through the Local Health Integration Network.

Ryan says a wait list has never been something the agency has had to work around and nobody will

be refused service — even if finances may appear to be an issue.

"We do our best to determine if we can help them in any way," said Ryan.

Meals are prepared at the kitchen inside Gilmore Lodge, which is across the street from St. Paul's Church.

For more information, call Fort Erie Meals on Wheels at 905-871-9366.





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There are no curbside collection day changes for December 2016 or January 2017. Garbage, Blue Box, Grey Box and Green Bin material will be collected on your regular collection day.

❁ HOLIDAY GARBAGE EXEMPTIONS

In the week following Christmas (Dec. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30), residents may place double their regular weekly garbage limit to the curb on their collection day.

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FORT ERIE TIMES ■ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016

Sudden departure for Fort Erie fire chief

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

After seven years of service, Tuesday, Dec. 13 was fire chief Larry Coplen's last day on the job.

Coplen became Fort Erie's fire chief and community emergency management co-ordinator in 2009.

He began his career as a volunteer firefighter and worked his way up through the ranks to become chief for Thorold in 2004.

Since coming to Fort Erie, Coplen has taken on key roles in regional and cross-border emergency management issues, expanded the public education program and

oversaw the construction of the Central Avenue fire station, says a press release issued late Tuesday.

"Through Larry's efforts, the organization has accomplished initiatives that will support the future sustainability of Fire and Emergency Services," said Tom Kuchyt, Chief Administrative Officer.

"We wish him well in his future endeavours," he added.

The process to recruit a replacement begins immediately.

No further explanation has been provided on why Coplen is no longer with the local fire department.

Deputy Fire Chief



Former Fire Chief Larry Coplen

Keith German will serve as interim fire chief in the meantime.

Last month, German announced he would be retiring from the fire service in April.

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Comment

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The
Fort Erie Times

Angus Scott regional editor
Sarah Ferguson editor

Point of View

United council better able to serve town

Fort Erie is becoming a unified town once again and so much of this has to do with the current council and its ability to work as one unit.

If there is a disagreement and an occasional debate that arises out of a meeting at town hall, it's rather clear that each member has the ability to move on and not take a difference of opinion personally, or as a reason to carry out some sort of revenge.

This isn't a commentary on previous terms of council but it's safe to say that all the commotion and boiled-over tempers we witnessed a few years ago are now considered local history.

The contentious Bay Beach project that had so many people pitted against one another is long gone and people in the area are now getting ready to embrace an \$850,000-development at the popular waterfront site

in Crystal Beach.

The keyboard crusaders who battled and bickered with one another for years as if it was their full-time job have appeared to calm down.

Some of the most committed political observers in town aren't coming through election expense documentation still hoping for that 'gotcha' moment, have moved onto other matters in their lives, it seems.

In an article published by the Times last week, Mayor Wayne Redekop is quoted saying that getting the local government on track to a more positive atmosphere is like turning around a battleship.

It takes time, but it's on its way around, he said.

An excellent analogy - so let's hope council business continues to head in the right direction.

-Kris Dube, Special to the Times

Do you remember?



Our thanks to Sue Reichenbach, who along with callers Ann and her sister, identified Charlie Lincoln shown canvassing for the Salvation Army in last week's photo. Many of you may remember Mr. Lincoln who worked at the Douglas Memorial Hospital for many years.

This week we have a picture of several children receiving candy canes from Santa. The date on the back of the photo is Dec. 22, 1981. Do you recognize yourself in the photo or perhaps your child? If so, please call the Museum at 905-894-5322 or send us an e-mail museum@forterie.ca.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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OUR LETTERS POLICY

To be considered for publication, all letters must include the writer's full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes.
Only your name and the city/town where you live will be published.
Please keep your comments to a maximum of 500 words.
Submit your letters via e-mail to: sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

Sightings of white deer reported in Fort Erie this year

How many Fort Erieans have asked this question over the years: what really happened to Fort Erie's famous white deer?

At the end of September 10 years ago we learned the truth about its demise. (I had seen photos of our deer over the past years and had written about it for the Times.) It was seen and photographed mainly in the Stonemill Road area east of Ridgeway. Various people on the Friendship Trail and on or near Dominion Road had sighted our white deer.

White? Not quite. I received a call back then from Les Eden, an area man. He said, "Earl, do you want to know the true story about the white deer? I have it." We went to his house and there it was - beautifully mounted. Remember this was a piebald deer, not a true albino. Albinos have no pigment in their system hence they are all white including their hooves. The eyes are always pink. Our piebald had brown



When Nature Calls

hooves, dark eyes, a brown patch between its antlers and a few brown spots on its sides. Our piebald buck was marvelously almost all white with a great rack. Les, a great job by your taxidermist - a wonderfully restored and mounted animal. Will we see some more in 2017? Sightings of a white deer have been reported in Fort Erie this year.

For my cat-loving relatives I have to write at least one article every long while about cats. Yes, I am a dog lover. With black Labrador and a sheltie on the two farms and then a little poodle in town we have been without cats. Don't get me wrong. I like cats and my childhood stories

confirm that. I was told that Whitney was born the same year as I was. She was no albino with pink eyes, but still a pure white cat. She was my cat. My mother told me to watch Whitney when she crossed Highway 3, I did. Whitney looked right then left and repeated the process as she crossed busy Garrison Road. She was headed for mousing in the Goding fields to the south. Our mailbox was also on the south side of the highway. My mother would point out to me how Whitney crossed the highway.

I never forgot the lesson. Crossing a road and later driving a car I always looked at least twice both ways before entering an intersection.

Eight years passed and Whitney disappeared. Pal, our German shepherd, was put down at that time. A sad time for Earl. A few years passed and some of us had ridden our bikes up to the abandoned Good house. Young boys, we challenged each other to enter the derelict build-

ing and climb the stairs to where we believed that the ghosts were. You can imagine the scenario. The four of us mounted the steps two by two. Sam let out a yell and we all ran back down the stairs terrified. I ran out the front door and to my right around the building. The ground cover was high tangled weeds. I was scared and anxious to get as far away as possible.

Then I saw her to my right. Whitney! I stopped. The other three came up to me.

"What's wrong, Earl?" "I saw Whitney right there," I replied. No Whitney in sight but Sam stopped and shouted, "Look out! There's an old well here!" If I had proceeded running north a few steps more I could have plummeted into the old well with its rotted covering. Whitney or another white cat had made me stop in my tracks.

Had Whitney saved my life? Quite possibly. We searched the area for several minutes. No Whitney.

Love your cats.



Les Eden has a restored and mounted white deer and the story of its demise a decade ago.

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Mitten trees and staff fiction picks at local libraries

A new record has been set for the number of items that have been collected at the Fort Erie Public Library on mitten trees and in book baskets. Patrons in Stevensville donated 507 items. Crystal Ridge helpers gathered up 788, and at the Centennial branch, 996 items were loaded onto the tree and baskets, for a total count of 2,291 items. Special thanks go to everyone who stopped by during this busy season to ensure that a book or knitted item appeared at their library branch. Donations of new



handmade or purchased hats, mittens and scarves were sorted, matched and tied with ribbon. Along with brand new books, they are being shared with young people in our communities as a holiday gift. The lovely offerings come from knitters, home sewers, library

patrons and service clubs. For many years, this work has been undertaken in partnership with the Adult Literacy Council of Greater Fort Erie. Recently, members of Trinity Lutheran Church have begun collecting, and the Friends of the Fort Erie Public Library join ALC and other volunteers wielding ribbons as the items are readied for the Salvation Army, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. George's Roman Catholic Church and other local groups. Another holiday tradition is for library staff to share their favourite 'picks' of the year. If you want to try some different fiction to read, clip this list for a great variety of options. We have a few adult readers on staff—no

surprise there—who cannot narrow their choices to just one. Laura Rudymski-Martino reports that her picks are all by Canadian authors this time. Fifteen Dogs by Andre Alexis, Saleema Nawaz's Bone and Bread, and All Inclusive by Farzana Doctor are her recommendations. Some of Debbie Ashworth's favourite authors came out with new books in 2016. She wants you to read Everything I never told you by Celeste Ng, Jo Jo Moyes' Me before You, Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult, and Ani McKay's Witches of New York. Karissa Fast once Vinegar Girl by Anne Tyler, The Library at Mount Char by Scott Hawkins and Slade House by David Mitchell.

Amy Warriner enjoyed Mothering Sunday by Graham Swift; Grace Dobbie recommends Adverbs by Daniel Handler and Cameron Sutcliffe chooses The Devil Wears Prada by Lauren Weisberger and Still Alice by Lisa Genova. Sean Fleming's pick is Nick Cutter's The Acolyte and Nelly Weaver's recommendation is The Light between Oceans by M. L. Stedman.

Some staff members have genres they prefer above all others, and their picks reflect that. Derek Clendenning finds the best horror, and he liked The Fireman by Joe Hill. Dawn Gangarossa is a fan of suspense, and she wants you to try Coffin Road by Peter May. My frequent choice is historical fiction, and my favourite this year was Graham Moore's Last Days

of Tesla, about the inventive genius Nicola Tesla.

Nancy Hooper and Debbie Ashworth like listening to audiobooks on Overdrive, free from the library website. Hooper enjoyed The Nest by Cynthia Sweeney on a recent car trip, while Ashworth enjoyed Kristin Hannah's The Nightingale.

All branches of the library will be closed from Saturday, Dec. 24 through Tuesday, Dec. 27, reopening on Wednesday, Dec. 28 for regular hours. The library will also close Dec. 31 through Jan. 2. While we are closed, you can place holds on your picks from our picks, sign up for Overdrive, or use our book drops at all branches.

Amy Roebuck is the community services coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.



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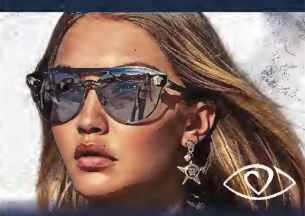
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Grandparents win new rights in the courts

Bill 34 means court applications of older generation in custody and access orders must be considered

TONY RICCIUTO
Postmedia Network

It's an issue that former Liberal Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor fought long and hard to get passed, and even though it didn't happen while he was in power, he is "ecstatic" that new legislation is now in place that gives grandparents some rights when it comes to their grandchildren.

"The emphasis was always that it had to be what was in the best interest of the child, that was the No. 1 priority, but I was never able to get it passed," said Craitor, who made five attempts to update the Child Law Reform Act to give grandparents more rights.



Kim Craitor, in a file photo.

CONTINUED > PAGE 10

Health Corner

Headaches from a Dental Perspective

The majority of populations suffer from some degree of headaches and migraines. Most people think that a headache or migraine are a product of stress, weather or an accident. Many headaches or migraines can be related to weather or trauma such as accidents. However did you know that a surprising number of headaches and migraines are related to bite issue and jaw joint problems?

When teeth first erupt, they often do not fit together like a puzzle. Over the course of your teeth and jaw development, some people adapt enough so that they can eat and chew without difficulty. However, many people cannot adapt to this and start noticing the following signs and symptoms

- Frequent Headache
- Migraines

- Chipping of front teeth
- Wearing down the teeth
- Bite feels pushed back
- Cannot eat hard food.

If you suffer from these signs and symptoms, you may suffer from TMD



Dr. John Inigo

(Temporomandibular Disorder). Most people adjust to it despite this condition. But certainly their quality of life is not optimal (dealing with a headache for example, is not an easy task). Some people notice their smile changes because of significant wears and chipping of their

teeth which can affect your self-confidence.

If you have signs and symptoms of TMD listed above, it may not be a bad idea to get that checked out by your dentist. Damaging results of untreated joint or bite problems can lead to more discomfort and a fast breakdown of your teeth and your dental treatment performed on you.

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway, Ontario. He can be reached at Inigo Bertie Dentistry, 905.871.2903 or Inigo Ridgeway Dentistry, 905.894.5555. For further information and discussion, please visit his office at www.inigodentistry.com

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Don't use grandchildren as weapon when there's a breakup: Craitor

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 9

Bill 34, which amends existing laws, was recently given royal assent after being reintroduced by NDP MPP Michael Mantha (Algoma-Maitland) earlier in the fall. He said the new legislation brings Ontario in line with other provinces.

During debate on the bill at Queen's Park, Mantha thanked former MPPs Craitor and Christine Elliott (Whitby-Oshawa) and current MPP Cheri DiNovo (Paisley-High Park) for their work over the years on this issue.

Shortly after being elected MPP, Craitor said he was approached by a group of grandparents who educated him about the challenges they were facing regarding access to their grandchildren.

"That took me down the road to introducing legislation in the house five times to change the Child Law Reform Act," he said. "We wanted to change sections of the act to say to the court they should put significant emphasis when they receive an application from a grandparent to have custody or access or visitation rights."

Craitor said he spent considerable time discussing this issue with NDP MPP Wayne Gates after he was elected for Niagara Falls. He also provided input to any groups that contacted him wanting to find out what else they could do to try to get this legislation passed.

Advocacy groups estimate about 75,000 grandparents in Ontario have been estranged from their grandchildren and have been pushing for improvements to the laws for more than a decade.

Craitor said this legislation should have

been passed long ago, but the Liberal government never took it to the next step, which was the public hearings, so that people could have a say about it one way or another.

"I was ecstatic when this finally passed. I had a number of grandparents call me, but for a number of them it's sad because the years have gone by and it's too late for them," he said. "What is sad in some of these cases is that it has nothing to do with the relationship between the grandparents and the child, it was more of a disagreement between the family so the grandparents got pulled into it and it was not because they had done anything inappropriate and vice versa."

While the new legislation doesn't automatically grant grandparents access, it does mean courts must consider them in custody cases, while also looking at what's in the best interest of the child.

"There was no reason for this bill not to have passed years ago," said Craitor. "This was not a bill that was asking for money. It was simply telling the courts that when you get an application from grandparents have a look at it. There are cases where grandparents have gone to court, it has cost them thousands of dollars and they were not successful. This doesn't tell the courts what to do, it gives them a better sense of direction, and it's more fair for the grandparents."

Craitor said there's one message he hopes people will keep in mind when there's a break up in a relationship — don't use the grandchildren as a weapon against the grandparents because those relationships are important for both sides.

triciu@postmedia.com



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Hearty beef broth with a herbed crouton and topped with Swiss cheese

Caesar Salad
Crisp romaine leaves tossed in our Caesar dressing with bacon, herbed croutons and parmesan cheese

Mixed Green Salad
Mixed greens tossed in our house vinaigrette with cherry tomatoes, red peppers, cucumbers, red onion, candied pecans and dried cranberries

Baked Brie
Baked brie served with a pear jelly and

toasted ciabatta
Additional \$5.00 to main entrée

Stuffed Mushrooms
Mushrooms stuffed with crab meat
Additional \$6.00 to main entrée

Escargot
Escargot marinated in red wine garlic and herbs, and baked with butter and parmesan cheese

Additional \$5.00 to main entrée
Charcuterie and Cheese Board
Assortment of cured meats and imported cheese
Additional \$7.00 to main entrée

• ENTRÉE (All entrees include soup or salad and choice of dessert) •

All Entrees are served with your choice of Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Rice Pilaf or Baked Potato and Seasonal Vegetables and Include one appetizer and Dessert Add 4 oz Lobster tail to any meal \$19.99

Beef Tenderloin \$40.99
8 oz Beef Tenderloin Medallions grilled to your liking accompanied with a red wine reduction

Rack of Lamb \$42.99
Lamb grilled to your liking accompanied with a Madagascan peppercorns sauce

Short Rib \$36.99
Braised 10 oz short rib accompanied with a beer reduction jus

Rib Eye Steak \$42.99
10 oz centre cut rib eye grilled to your liking accompanied with a red wine reduction

Chicken Supreme \$35.99
9 oz chicken supreme stuffed with prosciutto and white cheddar accompanied with a white wine reduction cream sauce

Twin Lobster Tail's \$49.99
Two 4 oz lobster tails served with drawn butter

Grilled Vegetable Tower \$31.99
Grilled vegetables stacked accompanied with couscous and drizzled with white truffle oil

Lobster Ravioli \$32.99
Pasta stuffed with tender pieces of Lobster tossed in lobster cream sauce

DESSERT

Salted caramel chocolate ganache tart Or Raspberry sorbet with fresh berries

Reservations are required. Dinner seating from 5:00 till 9:00

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DWI charges up this year

Niagara police
arrested 525 drivers
so far in 2016

DON FRASER
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

With regional RIDE programs gearing up for the holiday season, Niagara Regional Police say they've laid more drunk driving charges this year than in 2015.

Last year, police laid 492 charges against motorists, with 13 drug tests conducted by officers.

This year, with two weeks left in 2016, the number is up to 525 charges and 28 drug tests.

Meanwhile, Statistics Canada recently released police-reported impaired driving incidents in 2015 for major urban census areas.

While St. Catharines/Niagara — at 126 per 100,000 — ranks well below the Canadian rate of 201, it's the third-highest in Ontario of major urban areas, topped only by Barrie and Peterborough.

So while there aren't so many impaired driving incidents in Niagara, in a new study the U.S. Centers for Disease Control reports Canada ranks No. 1 among 19 wealthy countries for highest percentage of roadway deaths linked to alcohol impairment.

Overall in Canada, the impaired driving rate steadily decreased from 1986, when comparable data was first released, through the early 2000s.

It remained relatively stable



MIKE DIRATTISTA/NIAGARA FALLS RE

Niagara Regional Police Const. Shawn Donovan at a RIDE spot check on Highway 420 and Montrose Rd. in Niagara Falls Sunday. Police carry out RIDE spot checks throughout the year, and bring in extra resources for the annual holiday RIDE program that started in late November.

until 2011, and has since declined.

Statistics Canada says the impaired driving rate in Canada in 2015 was 65 per cent lower than the rate in 1986. However, the number of drug-impaired driving incidents has been rising since 2009, following legislative changes.

"The (charges) are a little bit higher this year in the region than last," said NRP Sgt. Josh Klop, who also reviewed statistics from 2009

to present, with 2009 particularly high when 677 charges were laid.

"From 2009 to 2012, statistics went down, year after year, for four years," he said.

After an uptick in 2013, it dropped the following year, then edged up a bit in 2015 and 2016.

"It's tough to give a specific reason why these numbers go up and down each year," Klop said.

"And it's tough to say why the numbers were... higher eight years ago (and whether) it's the changing

nature of our traffic enforcement.

"As far as I know, when it comes to the RIDE program we've basically been running the same amount of RIDEs per year, based on the funding we get," he said.

That generally translates to 14 to 17 RIDEs each year across Niagara, he said. Officers are also better trained about drug tests and when to use them in traffic enforcement.

Klop said traffic stops tend to be spread out through the year, with

about one per month in the summer. He said RIDE stops ramp-up to about one a week during the holiday season.

At least one of the RIDEs over Christmas generally also involves a collaboration with the Ontario Provincial Police.

Klop said RIDE arrest numbers so far are also roughly the same this year as last.

donfraser@postmedia.com
Twitter: don_standard
-with file from Postmedia Network



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ATTENTION ALL MOTORISTS

Residents are reminded that no overnight winter parking is permitted in the Town of Fort Erie between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. from November 1 through March 31 of the following year. The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be enforcing Traffic By-law No. 2000-89. The fine for this offence is \$40.00 and in addition, your vehicle may be towed at your expense.



TOWN OF FORT ERIE 2016 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PUBLIC SKATING

LEISUREPLEX:

TIM HORTONS HOLIDAY FREE SKATE - WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 28th - 2:00 - 3:30 PM

FESS/RCBHS FREE SKATE - THURSDAY - DECEMBER 29th - 2:00 - 3:30 PM

TIM HORTONS HOLIDAY FREE SKATE - WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 4th - 2:00 - 3:30 PM

FESS/RCBHS FREE SKATE THURSDAY - JANUARY 5th - 2:00 - 3:30 PM

CRYSTAL RIDGE ARENA:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23rd 8:00 - 10:00 PM \$2.50/PERSON

RIDGEWAY LIONS CLUB FREE SKATE - TUESDAY - DECEMBER 27th - 7:00 - 8:00 PM

TIM HORTONS HOLIDAY FREE SKATE - THURSDAY - DECEMBER 29th - 2:00 - 3:30 PM

FESS/RCBHS FREE SKATE - FRIDAY - DECEMBER 30th - 2:00 - 3:30 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30th 8:00 - 10:00 PM \$2.50/PERSON

FESS/RCBHS FREE SKATE - MONDAY - JANUARY 4th - 2:00 - 3:30 PM

TIM HORTONS HOLIDAY FREE SKATE - TUESDAY - JANUARY 5th - 2:00 - 3:30 PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8th 1:00 - 2:30 PM \$1.50/PERSON



Niagara College's Cider 101.

CRAIG YODALE HEAD-SHOT BYLINE

Each of us over time will have a go-to beverage that gives us comfort and familiarity.

We like to have something for which we don't have to ponder tasting notes in our head, or even the stress of picking something out when the time comes to shop for a party, or decide on a drink with friends.

In Niagara we have a lot of wine drinkers, as we should, but there is also the brewlows as well as those who want a good whiskey and coke that will calm the nerves.

Ontario has a new/local player in the mix and that is apple cider. This age-old beverage has been in the world for centuries and has a solid culture in the U.K. and France, but has seen a renaissance here in Ontario. Many will see the word cider as that caramel brown jug of fresh apple juice that we used to get at farms and local markets, but did not always associate the word with an alcoholic beverage that has sales soaring in Ontario.

Cider has a deep and long history dating back to Roman times bringing the tradition of fermenting apples through centuries and across Europe before finding its way to North America. We can thank the lexicon of Americanisms in the word cider,



which for them has connected to unfiltered juice, but our European influence has cider reaching a rebirth as part of our local and craft obsession in the marketplace. Apples have literally been around for millions of years and humans quickly found out that it could become a fermented concoction that is easy to prepare.

Original ciders were from orchards that were seeded through time to create a blend of varieties and styles. The more modern applications of grafting and development of variety focus has styles of cider becoming more popular than others. The Liquor Control Board of Ontario has seen a dramatic rise in sales of cider, reaching over 70 million units in Ontario. This number is projected to continue to rise, and should the trend continue we actually would not have enough apples growing in Ontario to meet the potential demand. Current legislation for producing and selling cider is coming into focus and there is a lobby to improve the opportunity for cider business to grow, and to

support the potential economic growth in our province.

Our local restaurants are now actually showing options of cider in bottle, and on tap, and not just the traditional Strongbow from England, but local brands that are growing in popularity such as Spirit Tree or Shiny Apple Cideries.

Niagara College has been making a traditional style dry English cider for two seasons called Cider 101 and it has been selling out each year it's produced. It recently was awarded a gold medal at the U.S. Cider Championships. The demand for cider training is growing and perhaps we might see a teaching cider in our future.

During the next trip to your favourite pub or restaurant, take a look at what they have in cider and see if you might have a new go-to when the big decision needs to be made.

Craig has been in the food and beverage industry for three decades as a chef, restaurateur, professor, international competitor and now dean of the Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College. His passion for all things food and wine has led him to Niagara to lead the institute to become the world's foremost educator in fermentation sciences and culinary arts.

SUPPLIED PHOTO



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CREDIT UNION

BANK LOCAL

A look back
at the week
in Niagara

f /PenFinancial
@PenFinancial



OUR NIAGARA

On Tuesday December 6th, 2016, the Southern Niagara Chambers of Commerce came together for a special Holiday Edition of Business After Five. The event was hosted by Post Media and took place at The Greg Frewin Theatre. Members from the Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce, Welland/Pelham, Port Colborne – Wainfleet Chambers of Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce Niagara Falls came together for this historic event. Business cards were traded, handshakes were exchanged, and pleasantries were passed among the hundreds that were in attendance. In-house catering by Gooddine Catering served a gracious display of food while guests mingled and networked with each other. They were then led into the theatre where Executive Director of the Southern Niagara Chambers, Dolores Fabiano welcomed everyone and said a few words on what the New Year will look like – with more partnered events to come! December's Business of the Month, sponsored by RBC, was awarded to The Greg Frewin Theatre with Group and Corporate Sales Manager Serena Waldeck accepting the plaque on behalf of the Theatre. Before the night ended, everyone enjoyed a Magical performance by Greg Frewin. Those who travelled from out of town were provided transportation by Niagara Airbus, to and from the event.



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INTERCEDE INTERNATIONAL



Intercede Volunteers Appreciation Night

Back Row: L-R: Pearson Herrera, Marianne Krawczyk, Lori and Victor Alvin, Keith Baltus, Deryk Tylden, Justin Sault, Ray Dortono, Corinne Blackwell, Estaban Sarmiento, Anthony Berisha, George Kinnaird

Middle Row: L-R: Marilyn Taylor, Tony Hill, James Reintaler, Mabel Gonzalez, Sharon Eagles

Front Row: L-R: Jacob Ammer and Lexie Gill

Other Volunteers not in the photo: Teresa Summers, Elizabeth Schmalz, Andebthan Kahsay, Becky Vandervyck, Bekki Cracknell, Jose Herrera, Junko Derkson, Marie Christine Makolo, Matilda Baptist, Patricia Coke, Ruthann White, Danielle Sault, Ed Benl, Enzo Herrera, Brent Hilscher, James Okot, Bruce Brown, Ken Willis, John Lucas.



Staff of Intercede International

From L-R: James Eagles-President, Eliud Herrera-Director of Ministry Relations, Alan Doerksen-Publications Manager, Joshua Sault-Properties Superintendent, Karen Krawczyk-Director of Sponsorship, Douglas Sarmiento-Treasurer.

On Tuesday, December 6th, Intercede International, a Fort Erie Christian faith based national mission charity, held its annual Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Night at the All Nations Mission Centre in Ridgeway. A banquet was served by Brian and Jane Duggan Catering and awards were given out to all Intercede Volunteers. Over the past 12 months Intercede has been blessed with many Volunteers who gave of their time and talents.

Altogether in 2016 our 39 Volunteers contributed collectively almost 1200 man hours of work. Every year Intercede also recognizes certain Volunteers to be our Intercede Volunteers of the Year. This year the six Intercede Volunteers of the Year were: Deryk Tilden, Jacob Ammer, Tony Hill, James Reintaler Sharon Eagles, and Corinne Blackwell. This year four individuals were also honoured for their Milestone of Distinguished Volunteer Service Years to Intercede International. The 15 Years Milestone Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service was presented to George Kinnaird, and the 10 year Milestone Award was presented to Marie-Christine Makolo and two 5 Year Milestone Awards were presented to Rev. David Thom Braun and to Mrs. Mabel Gonzalez.



Corinne Blackwell Volunteer of the Year



James Reintaler Volunteer of the Year.



Deryk Tilden Volunteer of the Year



Mabel Gonzalez 5 Year Milestone Volunteer



George Kinnaird 15 Year Milestone Award



Tony Hill Volunteer of the Year



Jacob Ammer Volunteer of the Year



Sharon Eagles Volunteer of the Year

Social club demonstrates social conscience



The Social Climate Club, a group of student volunteers at St. George Catholic Elementary School, delivered several boxes of food to St. Vincent De Paul Monday. The group also collected gift cards to Joe's Valu-mart and Canadian Tire. The 25-member group started its food drive on Dec. 5, gathering items brought in by the student body. The club also collected food for the needy at Thanksgiving and focuses on several initiatives throughout the academic year.





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Samantha Schlosser

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Italian Style Beef Meatballs
10-14 PEECES per lb to go
save \$5 11⁹⁹

Mozzarella Sticks
10-14 PEECES per lb to go
7⁹⁹ save \$2

Mozzarella Dip
10-14 PEECES per lb to go
save \$3 3⁹⁹

Shrimp Platter
10-14 PEECES per lb to go
save \$6 14⁹⁹

Trail Sweet and Spicy Roasting Sauce
10-14 PEECES per lb to go
3⁹⁹

YOUR CHOICE
Shrimp Ring
10-14 PEECES per lb to go
9⁹⁹

Shrimp Ring
10-14 PEECES per lb to go
save \$6 9⁹⁹

Extra Large Shrimp Platter
10-14 PEECES per lb to go
3⁹⁹

Beef & Chicken Medley
10-14 PEECES per lb to go
3⁹⁹

2 DAYS ONLY FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER

Slow Cooked Beef Pot Roast
10-14 PEECES per lb to go
13⁹⁹ save \$5⁵⁰

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St. Catharines 283 Lake St. 905-646-8812
St. Catharines 100 Fourth Ave. 905-682-8223

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Orleans 36 Main St. E. 905-645-8400
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SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL CLARKSON

Tony Vanderklei holds an old score card from the Rio Vista industrial league. He will be 94 years old in February and still plays three days a week without a power cart.

Rio Vista special to senior

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

Rio Vista Golf Course is a special place for Tony Vanderklei and he looks forward to many more years there, enjoying the

game he dearly loves.

Many Times readers will know him from his weekly Rio Vista Retirees column during the warmer months, but he is also a fixture at the local golf course.

During the recent season,

he played an average of three days a week, also using his rounds as a form of exercise – walking and not riding in a power cart.

CONTINUE > PAGE 17



Fate Salon is excited to welcome Courtney Booth to our team of professionals. Courtney is an exceptional stylist with many years of experience and a cheerful attitude. Call us today to book your appointment with Courtney.

Courtney is available Monday through Saturday.

F8
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'It's more than a golf course'

CONTINUED FROM ► PAGE 16

Vanderklei moved to Fort Erie in 1959 from Holland to take a job at Fleet Canada. When he started working there he began joining his coworkers on Tuesday afternoons after quitting time. Shortly after, he was a full-fledged member and today, one of the most familiar faces at the course.

He says the course's layout, secluded other than abutting a few homes along the edge of the first hole, is what makes Rio Vista the relaxing place it is for him.

"To me, it's more than just a golf course. It's just nature - and that's the way a course should be, away from it all," he said.

Vanderklei, who competed in the industrial league for decades, was also the captain of the

Reid's Sports team for many years.

In 1989, he tallied his first and only hole-in-one during his career there. It was on hole no. 7 during industrial league play.

The lowest round he ever put on a card was a 37 for nine holes, which is one over par, a slight improvement from his handicap of around nine.

The golf course on Crooks Street, opened in 1933, is planned to become a part of Fort Erie's past - as a major development expected to attract close to 2,000 people is in the very early stages of moving ahead.

The property has been sold to a development group planning to build the neighbourhood of Fort Erie Hills. It involves a proposed total of 769 dwelling units

on 36 street blocks, with an estimated population of 1,876, based on a formula of 2.44 persons per household.

Vanderklei is reluctant to show concern that the development will affect the course which, according to Town planning staff, will remain open to the public for "the next couple of years."

The avid golfer compared the residential development to the Canadian Motor Speedway, a project he says has taken far too long to ever become a reality.

"It reminds me of the car race track - eight years ago they said it would be here in two years," he said.

Rio Vista was designed by Stanley Thompson, considered Canada's top golf course architect.



SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL CLARKSON

Longtime golfing partners Tony Vanderklei, Gord Edwards and Walter Pearce at Rio Vista.

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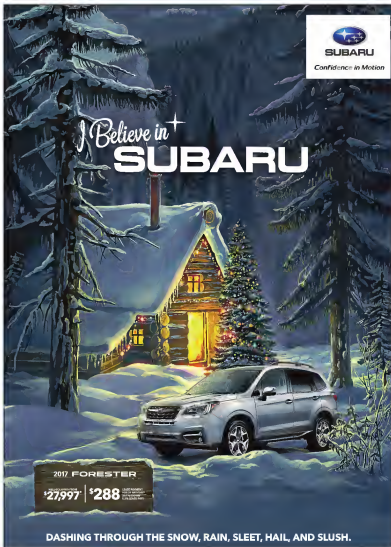
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Lions provide community dinner



KRIS DUBE/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

On Monday night, the Ridgeway Lions Club held its community dinner, an annual event during the holiday season. Most of the food was donated by the Friends of Crystal Beach and the Lions Club wishes to thank all the groups who contributed to the meal, which served about 200 people.

Happy 100th



KRIS DUBE/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Andy Barrowman, a resident at the Neal Skerrett Seniors Complex in Crystal Beach, recently turned 100 years old. During the retirement home's Christmas party last week, his friends also threw him a bit of a celebration. Barrowman's nephew, Mike MacPherson, also surprised him with an appearance.

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LOCKS SE BLACK PACK/HEATED SEATS & MORE
MARKET VALUE: \$20,537
DELIVERY ALLOWANCE: \$2,500
ADDITIONAL BROCK DISCOUNT: \$1,257
YEAR END DISCOUNT: \$500
COSTCO DISCOUNT: \$500

BROCK SALE PRICE:
\$19,780

Plus FINANCE @ 3.99% FOR 64 MONTHS
\$148.07

2017 FUSION SE FWD



2.5L I4 ENGINE/6-SPO AUTO/AIR/P/WINDOWS & LOCKS/
SPEED CONTROL & TILT WHEEL & MORE
MARKET VALUE: \$27,877
COSTCO DISCOUNT: \$1,000
ADDITIONAL BROCK DISCOUNT: \$622
YEAR END DISCOUNT: \$500

BROCK SALE PRICE:
\$25,545

Plus FINANCE @ 0.99% FOR 64 MONTHS
\$146.69

2017 ESCAPE SE FWD



1.5L ECOBOOST ENGINE/6-SPO AUTO/AIR/
P/WINDOWS & LOCKS/SPEED CONTROL/TILT WHEEL & MORE
MARKET VALUE: \$28,020
COSTCO DISCOUNT: \$1,000
ADDITIONAL BROCK DISCOUNT: \$622
YEAR END DISCOUNT: \$500

BROCK SALE PRICE:
\$27,426

Plus FINANCE @ 0.49% FOR 64 MONTHS
\$154.65

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COSTCO DISCOUNT: \$1,200
YEAR END DISCOUNT: \$500

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\$38,181

Plus FINANCE @ 1.99% FOR 64 MONTHS
\$226.39

2016 F150 SUPERCAB 2WD XLT/XTR



5.0L V8 ENGINE/6-SPO AUTO/XTR PACKAGE
TRAILER TOW & MUCH MORE
MARKET VALUE: \$44,813
DELIVERY ALLOWANCE: \$6,000
ADDITIONAL BROCK DISCOUNT: \$3,241
COSTCO DISCOUNT: \$1,200
YEAR END DISCOUNT: \$500

BROCK SALE PRICE:
\$31,872

Plus FINANCE @ 3.49% FOR 64 MONTHS
\$199.25

2016 F150 SUPERCREW 4WD



5.0L V8 ENGINE/6-SPO AUTO/AIR/CLPG
P/WINDOWS & LOCKS AND MORE
MARKET VALUE: \$46,013
DELIVERY ALLOWANCE: \$6,000
ADDITIONAL BROCK DISCOUNT: \$3,577
COSTCO DISCOUNT: \$1,000
YEAR END DISCOUNT: \$500

BROCK SALE PRICE:
\$35,936

Plus FINANCE @ 3.49% FOR 64 MONTHS
\$224.47

2016 F250 XLT CREWCAB 2WD



6.2L V8 ENGINE/6-SPO AUTO/AIR/5TH WHEEL PREP/
CAMPER PKG. & MUCH MUCH MORE
MARKET VALUE: \$52,500
DELIVERY ALLOWANCE: \$6,000
ADDITIONAL BROCK DISCOUNT: \$6,118
COSTCO DISCOUNT: \$1,200
YEAR END DISCOUNT: \$500

BROCK SALE PRICE:
\$39,982

Plus FINANCE @ 3.49% FOR 72 MONTHS
\$286.28



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Support during holiday season

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Joe's Valu-mart along with the Ridgeway Fire Department had their 2016 Community Food Drive for St. Vincent De Paul food bank recently. Valu-mart staff filled bags with items the food bank needed and displayed them in the store for customers to purchase, and cash donations were accepted outside in a fireman's boot. More than \$1500 worth of food was donated and almost \$900 cash collected, said Joe Ambrosio, owner of Valu-mart, who added his thanks to the firefighters. Valu-mart staff and the community for their support.



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News Briefs

Fort Erie Secondary School and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School are inviting the public to enjoy a free family skate over the holidays. At the Leisureplex Arena,

Free family skates

free skates will be offered Thursday, Dec. 29 and Thursday, Jan 5, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. both days.

At the Crystal Ridge Arena, the free skates will be offered

Friday, Dec. 30, and Wednesday, Jan. 4, both days from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to bring a food donation for COPE... boxes will be on site.



FIRE PREVENTION SMARTS

At least 80 percent of all fire deaths occur in home fires. Here are some smart Fire Prevention tips for protecting yourself and your family:

- ✓ Never leave candles burning unattended, and keep matches out of reach from children.
- ✓ Keep space heaters away from curtains and other flammable materials.
- ✓ Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside each bedroom, and test batteries monthly.

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Fort Erie veteran purchases turkeys for those in need

KRIS DUKE
Special to the Times

Way Robbins believes everyone should enjoy a delicious turkey with their family at Christmas, and for the last 18 years has been doing as much as he can to make this possible.

The local resident and veteran of the Second World War has been purchasing dozens of birds for the less fortunate in Greater Fort Erie and on Saturday he picked up this year's haul at No Frills – with his own small team and representatives from 10 local churches who help him with distribution.

"They know who needs them, so they take care of delivering them," he said.

This year, Robbins bought 150 turkeys to be dropped off at local homes but he hopes to keep increasing that number, because he knows the need is there.

"If anyone else wants to donate – then maybe next year we can have 200," he said.

Robbins says as he sits down for Christmas dinner with his family, he will feel satisfaction knowing many others around town will do the same, thanks to his annual initiative.

"It's nice to know that someone else will be doing the same, too," he said.

When he first started, Robbins donated 15 turkeys.

This year, 150 gift certificates for No Frills are also included in the effort.



Wray Robbins, with help from a small team of volunteers, picks up turkeys to be distributed to those in need.

KRIS DUKE/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 24: 8 AM TO 4 PM
SUNDAY DECEMBER 25: CLOSED
MONDAY DECEMBER 26: 9 AM TO 5 PM

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 23: 8 AM TO 5:30 PM
SATURDAY DECEMBER 24: CONTACT STORE
SUNDAY DECEMBER 25: CLOSED
MONDAY DECEMBER 26: CLOSED



College's research division gets \$7.3M

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Niagara College is receiving \$7.3 million from the federal government for a collaborative project with three other post-secondary institutions to support the manufacturing sector in the Golden Horseshoe.

The project, called the Southern Ontario Network for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation (SONAMI), involves Niagara College's Walker Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Centre as well as the manufacturing centres of Mohawk and Sheridan colleges and McMaster University.

The funding announcement was made Monday morning by Niagara Centre MP Vance Badaway on behalf of NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, minister of innovation, science and economic development.

The investment, coming specifically from the Federal Economic Development

Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev), is expected to create or maintain 186 jobs, result in 170 new prototypes and up to 85 new products.

"This network will help retail manufacturers gain access to the advanced technologies and the advanced systems, facility space and expertise needed to develop and commercialize new products," said Badaway.

Niagara College president Dan Patterson called the investment a "bright light" and said through the partnership with the other post-secondary schools, the college will be able to support local small- and medium-sized companies in the manufacturing sector.

He said small local companies can't typically afford to have their own research and development facilities, so Niagara College will be somewhere they can turn to. If Niagara College can't do it, the company's project goes on to one of the partner post-secondary schools that can.

Niagara College is the main point of access for this project, however.

"We've created the single window here in Niagara to co-ordinate the various activities and to report on our progress," said Patterson. "So we have that lead responsibility."

Niagara College has already been supporting smaller, local companies in this way, but with this new funding, the college will be able to do more.

FUNDING from page A1
Ben Laurence, research laboratory technologist with the college, said the college now does about a dozen large and about 70 smaller projects a year. With the new funding, he thinks it will be able to double that number.

"What this funding will allow us to do is be incredibly responsive," he said.

As it stands, when the college receives project proposals from companies, it has had to go through a series of



LAURA BARTON/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Centre MP Vance Badaway, right, checks out some of the technology used in one of the manufacturing and research laboratories at Niagara College in Welland. Ben Laurence, research laboratory technologist, peers over his shoulder and tells him some of the things the project can do.

vetting and channels to see if the project is doable. Laurence said that process, which has sometimes taken up to six months, will be sped up.

"If somebody comes to us with a great idea or a great new product they want to design, we can do the vetting ourselves and start a research project for them in weeks as opposed to half a year."

Because this will all be taking place in the college, the

students will benefit from the project, too.

Patterson said students in the research division get to work on projects with different companies as a part of their program requirements.

"Students do well when they can apply what they've known in the classroom to the real world work. We're now taking applied learning to the next level by actually providing applied research projects, very

specific projects, that will help them gain the necessary skills and knowledge to be employment ready," he said.

Both Badaway and Patterson stressed the importance of collaboration in this project's success. Patterson said Niagara College and the other post-secondary schools are "thrilled" to be working together.

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For more information on healthcare options visit www.hnhbhealthline.ca

Residents ponder future with dual-duty councillors

KARENA WALTER
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A meeting about dual-duty councillors drew a range of views but not the back-and-forth debate one resident was hoping for Monday night.

"I was looking for debate among politicians and we didn't get that," said St. Catharines resident George Darte, who requested the public meeting through regional council in November. "I'm disappointed."

The 90-minute meeting drew a dozen politicians and about 20 residents to city hall.

Concerns were raised about creating full-time politicians, dealing with conflict of interest and what would happen if no current ward councillors want to run for the role.

"What's going to happen is we're going to end up with career politicians," said regional Agent Angela Browne, who spoke out against the idea.

Browne said constituents don't want full-time councillors like those in Toronto and would like

their politicians to keep their day jobs.

But resident John Bullivant disagreed and said it was time to change a governance structure in place since 1970.

"Nothing has changed too much, expect a real strong protection of the status quo," he said.

St. Catharines city Couns. Carlos Garcia, Sal Sorrento, Matt Harris, Mat Sisoc and Mike Britton were in attendance Monday, along with Mayor Walter Sendak, who had to leave early for an air cadet celebration.

They were joined by St. Catharines regional Couns. Bruce Timms, Kelly Edgar, Debbie MacGregor and Brian Heit, as well as Regional Chairman Alan Caslin and Welland regional Coun. Paul Grenier.

St. Catharines asked Niagara Region in July 2015 to apply to the province to allow the city to change its governance model. The city currently has 12 city councillors and six regional councillors. The proposal would see six of the city's 12 councillors also sit on regional



Kelly Edgar

council. Each ward would have one city councillor and one dual councillor, cutting the number of politicians from 18 to 12.

Niagara Region took the request to the province, which gave St. Catharines the OK in June.

For the process to move ahead now, it must be approved by a "triple majority" — the majority of regional council, followed by the majority of the region's 12 municipal councils, representing the majority of Niagara's population.

Regional council was scheduled to deal with the issue in September, when Darte requested it defer the decision to allow the city to hold a public meeting.

The city held a meeting at FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in October which drew about 20 residents.

In November, Darte told regional councillors he didn't think the event was an official public meeting and they again deferred a vote and requested the city hold another meeting.

On Monday, Darte told people who gathered that he wanted to



Bruce Timms

hear from councillors about what they thought about the proposal.

Timms said dual duty would remove the disconnect between the city and Region. He said regional and city councillors can't sit and debate with each other now.

"That frustration would become unnecessary if city council served at the Region as well."

He said the dual role would be taken on by retired or semi-retired residents or those who want to become full-time councillors, like in Oakville.

But Heit said what councillors hear-in-camera at the Region can't be shared with city council.

He said they're creating a politician with three hats, but a dual-duty councillor will have to look at what's best for the whole region, not just 20,000 people in one ward.

Edgar said dual duty will create a hierarchy among councillors and won't make a difference for residents who don't know which councillor to call now.

"You're still paying the same amount of money for less repre-



Alan Caslin

sentation," he said.

Grantham ward resident Matthew Goodman said he doesn't like the idea of fewer representatives with fewer voices and fewer points of view.

"It is a solution in search of a problem."

Goodman said there is no necessity for full-time politicians and he prefers part-time councillors who have a foot in the real world, out in their communities.

Caslin, who's said publicly there are positives on both sides of the issue, told those gathered Monday they really need to ask 'why are you making the change' rather than who gets paid and who gets the job.

"Why don't we think about the reason we're doing this before we talk about the details of the structure?" he asked before the meeting was stopped so a city council meeting could begin.

The issue is expected to be back in front of regional council in the new year.

kwalter@postmedia.com

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Lending a helping hand



Iron Graphics Tattoo and Body Piercing on Jarvis Street in Fort Erie held its first annual food and toy drive this month. Owner Phil Cudmore said he was amazed at the response and support from people in the Niagara Region who are helping families at Christmas. The food and toys were donated in exchange for a small tattoo at the new studio, which opened in October. Cudmore, looking over the donations going to Fort Erie COPE, said since the opening of the studio, the support from the community has been overwhelming.

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Event Highlights

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January 7th, 7pm

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January 8th, 10 - 2

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January 8th, 4pm

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Greetings of The Season

Pecan Pie Cheesecake



Recipe By Kraft

Prep Time	Total Time	Servings
15 min.	6 hr. 15 min.	16 servings, 1 piece (100g) each

What You Need

- 1-1/4 cups graham crumbs
- 5 Tbsp. butter, melted, divided
- 3 pkg. (250 g each) Philadelphia Brick Cream Cheese, softened
- 1-1/4 cups packed brown sugar, divided
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 6 eggs, divided
- 1/4 cup dark corn syrup
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans

Make It

- Heat oven to 350°F.
- Mix graham crumbs and 4 Tbsp. butter; press onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan.
- Beat cream cheese, 3/4 cup sugar and vanilla with mixer until blended. Add 3 eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each; until just blended. Pour over crust.
- Bake 30 min. Meanwhile, mix remaining sugar and butter until blended. Beat in remaining eggs and corn syrup; stir in nuts. Remove cheesecake from oven; gently spoon nut mixture over cheesecake. Return to oven.
- Bake 40 min. or until nut mixture is set. Cool completely. Refrigerate at least 4 hours.

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- Cathy Dennaflower & Family

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Happy Holidays
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Greetings of The Season

GRINCH POPCORN



Grinch Popcorn

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup popcorn kernels
- 2 Tbsp canola oil
- Salt
- 1/4 cup butter (they suggest sweet cream salted)
- 3 1/2 cups mini marshmallows (divided)
- Blue food coloring
- Yellow food coloring
- Red M&M's

DIRECTIONS:

1. Make the popcorn. (They suggest making it the old fashioned way for a better taste, but you can also make it in the microwave.)
2. Salt the popcorn liberally, and make sure you remove all of the unpopped kernels.
3. Melt the butter in a medium sauce pan. Once it is melted, add 3 cups of the mini marshmallows and stir until they are melted.
4. Turn off the heat and add a couple drops of yellow food coloring. Mix until the mixture is bright yellow, then add in one very small drop of blue food coloring and stir. This combination of food coloring should give you the perfect "Grinch Green" color. (If you are making this for a holiday party, you can add a little bit more blue for a more "Christmas-y Green.")
5. Slowly pour the marshmallow mixture over the popcorn. Using a spoon, gently fold it in until the popcorn is mostly covered. The amount of marshmallow mixture you add to the popcorn is up to your own taste. Add it in a little bit at a time until you get the amount of coating you desire.
6. Pour the popcorn onto a cookie sheet covered with foil or a Silpat liner. Drizzle a little bit of the remaining marshmallow mixture over the popcorn, but do not mix it in -- you will need the mixture on the top so the candy will have something to stick to.
7. Sprinkle the remaining marshmallows and the red M&M's (they represent the Grinch's tiny heart that grew three sizes!) onto the popcorn while it is still warm and sticky, concentrating on the areas where you drizzled the marshmallow mixture.
8. Allow the popcorn to cool, then break apart into pieces and serve! (You can store the popcorn for a few days in a Ziplock bag or an airtight container, but it will get a little chewy as the popcorn absorbs the marshmallow mixture. If you are making this for a party, we suggest making it as close to the time you will serve it as possible, but it will still taste good if you need to make it early!)

Seasons Greetings

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Merry Christmas & Happy 2017!
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Greetings of The Season

Caramel-Filled Maple-Pecan Cookies



Recipe By Kraft

Prep Time

30 min.

Total Time

44 min.

Servings

24 servings,
2 cookie (36 g) each

What You Need

- 1 pkg. (250 g) Philadelphia Brick Cream Cheese, softened • 1 cup butter, softened • 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. maple extract • 2-1/2 cups flour • 24 Kraft Caramels • 4 tsp. half-and-half • 1 cup finely chopped pecans

Make It

- Heat oven to 350°F.
- Beat cream cheese and butter in large bowl with mixer until blended. Add sugar and extract; mix well. Gradually add flour, mixing well after each addition.
- Microwave caramels and half-and-half in small microwavable bowl on HIGH 1-1/2 min. or until caramels are completely melted and mixture is well blended, stirring after 1 min. Cool 5 min. Meanwhile, shape dough into 48 (1-inch) balls. Roll in nuts until evenly coated. Place, 2 inches apart, on parchment-covered baking sheets. Indent centres.
- Pour caramel sauce into resealable plastic bag. Cut small piece off one bottom corner of bag; use to squeeze caramel sauce into indentations in dough.
- Bake 12 to 14 min. or until edges are lightly browned. Cool on baking sheets 5 min. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

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Greetings of The Season



Healthy holiday dessert option

A certain measure of overindulgence is anticipated during the holiday season. Rich foods and desserts are served, and parties are plentiful. However, those who plan to stick to their healthy eating plans can still enjoy tastes of the season without compromising their fitness or dietary goals.

Many recipes can be made healthier with some simple substitutions, and that even includes decadent desserts. Take, for example, "Wickedly Decadent Deep Chocolate Truffles" from "Low Fat for Life," (DK) by Sue Krietzman. This low-fat version of a high-fat classic will taste delicious without being too sinful.

Wickedly Decadent Deep Chocolate Truffles

Makes 24

- 6 ounces semisweet chocolate
- 6 ounces very low-fat fromage frais
- 2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 ounces semisweet chocolate, grated

1. Break the chocolate into a bowl over a pan of simmering water. Let it melt, stirring occasionally.
 2. In a separate bowl, whisk together the fromage frais and sugar. Whisk in the vanilla.
 3. When the chocolate is melted and smooth, remove from the heat and allow to cool slightly. Slowly whisk the chocolate into the fromage frais mixture, using a rubber spatula to incorporate every bit of chocolate. Cover with plastic wrap and chill for an hour.
 4. Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Scatter the grated chocolate on a plate. Scoop out the chilled chocolate mixture in teaspoonfuls, roll into balls, then roll the balls in the grated chocolate and put on the prepared baking sheet. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until firm.
 5. Put the truffles in small paper cones. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator until ready to use.
- Per truffle: Total fat: 2 g; saturated fat: 1 g; unsaturated fat: 1 g; cholesterol: 1 mg; sodium: 3 mg; calories: 52.

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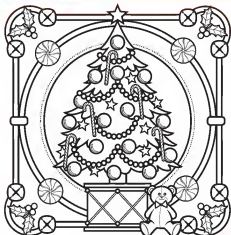
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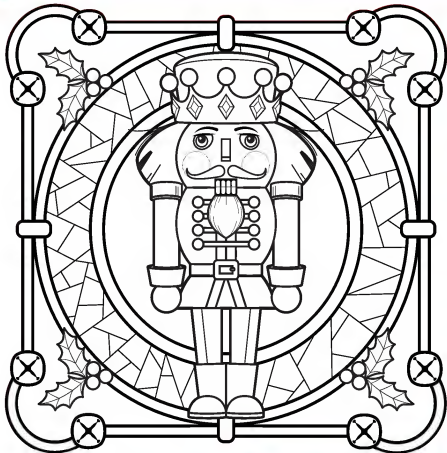
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Greetings of The Season

The many ways to recycle Christmas greeting cards

The Greeting Card Association says Americans purchase some 6.5 billion greeting cards every year. Of those, around 1.6 billion are Christmas cards. Exchanging cards is a great way for people to show their loved ones that they're thinking about them, and such cards make for festive ornaments to display around homes. But when the holiday season ends, recycling those cards into other items can make good use of the paper resources and turn what's normally a single-use item into an enduring trinket.

- Turn this year's cards into next year's gift tags. Cut out circles, rectangles or any shape you desire. Otherwise, visit the scrapbooking aisle of your favorite craft store and purchase a paper punch to make easy work of cutting those shapes.
- Transform a greeting card into a mini puzzle for a youngster.
- Glue silly characters from Christmas cards onto a sheet of magnet. Then use these magnets for decorations next year.
- Frame favorite cards so their messages can endure year after year.
- Turn a beautiful card into a keepsake. Use a decoupage medium to attach a card to a ceramic or wood backing. Coat with a polyurethane top coat to protect it.
- Use greeting cards to make wine charms for holiday entertaining. Guests can keep track of their glasses with ease.
- Use cut-outs of cards to improve the appearance of plain gift wrap or bags.
- Insert cut rounds of greeting cards into the inside of can lids to create crafty ornaments.
- Make a paper Christmas tree from cutouts on greeting cards.
- Encourage kids to make a photo collage from the cards they like. Mount their efforts on poster board and save for next year.
- Donate used cards. St. Jude's Ranch recycles greeting cards by reselling them to help fund programs.

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Niagara introduces 911 texting

MARVYN FIRTH
Postmedia Network

A new tool to reach emergency responders is getting thumbs up.

Niagara 911 and local emergency services have launched a program that allows the deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired members of the community to text 911.

The new technology, T9-1-1, allows emergency operators to communicate through text when the need arises.

It can be used whenever police, firefighters, Niagara EMS or Niagara Parks Police are required to respond.

"We've been working in excess of a year to get Text 911 up and running ... It's been a multi-step process," Niagara Regional Police Staff Sgt. Dave Weeks said of the initiative, which is meant to increase accessibility of local emergency services.

To use the service, a cellphone must be registered for T9-1-1 with the phone's service provider. The phone and its service plan must be capable of sending and receiving text messages.

There is no cost to register.

To use the service, users must first place a conventional voice call to 911.

That call is flagged as coming from a registered T9-1-1 phone and prompts the emer-

gency operator to initiate a text chat with the device using a secondary software, Weeks said.

A call is first required to provide 911 with initial data about its source that cannot otherwise be immediately obtained through text.

Throughout the duration of the call and text session, the operator can hear background noise from the caller's end, which will be used to add any pertinent information to the call log that may aid first responders.

"The reality is most of the callers who are registering do have the capability of either speech or hearing," Weeks said.

Rather than conduct the critical conversation in writing in both directions, which can take substantially longer than a phone call, the caller can identify whether they're able to hear or speak so the operator can conduct the conversation accordingly, he said.

"Our operator can do the typing and the caller can do the speaking or vice versa."

While it has been suggested in some communities that texting 911 should be made available to the general public, Weeks said that concept comes with "a lot of pitfalls."

"A conversation takes four to five times as long (by text) and it's a

constant battle here to answer these phones as quickly as possible," he said. "We just want to get someone on the way to help."

The service, if opened to all residents, would also require additional resources for added personnel, he said.

"When people understand the personnel that would be required as a result, they would say let's just call."

Connectivity may also be a hindrance as texts to 911 are reliant on the phone carrier's network, whereas calls to 911 come through dedicated infrastructure that has redundancy and backup power sources built in, Weeks said.

Niagara 911 has no control over the delivery success and times of text messaging content.

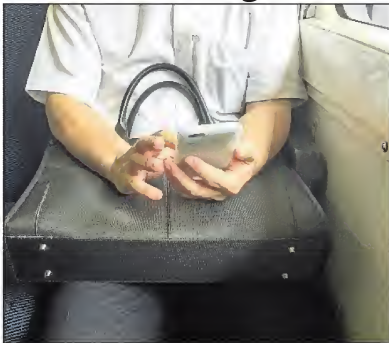
Weeks estimated that less than 100 people in Niagara are expected to register for the service.

He stressed that no cellphone can initiate a texting session with 911, whether registered or otherwise.

If a call from a registered phone is not first made, texts to 911 will not be delivered.

For more information on the service, visit www.textwith911.ca.

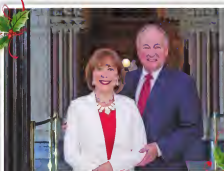
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Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Rodekop attended the Bell Tower community dinner, and was given a tour of the art and entertainment centre by owners Marc and Noel LeBoeuf.



It took a large group of volunteers to prepare dinner and serve about 160 people Sunday.

Bell Tower invites 160 people to Christmas dinner

It took two seatings and many volunteers for the Bell Tower family to prepare and serve a Christmas feast Sunday to more than 160 people needing a hand up in Fort Erie.

Drawing from Fort Erie's food banks and the Salvation Army, guests were served a meal of turkey, ham, vegetables, stuffing and all the fixings of a family Christmas dinner.

There were tables of desserts to satisfy any sweet tooth, all presented in the setting of a fine ball room with table cloths and centre pieces, trays displayed on platters of silver and crystal with candles setting a warm and welcoming

mood. Christmas favourites played while the image of a crackling fire was displayed on the large projection screen and decorated trees welcomed all those who came for dinner.

Greeted and welcomed at the door, and escorted to their tables all guests were treated like they had reservations at a fine restaurant. Volunteers wore Christmas apparel from hand knit sweaters to Santa hats and antlers.

For guests, ranging from small children to seniors, this dinner was a huge success, and some of those in attendance had tears of joy that their families had such a beautiful Christmas dinner.

Mayor Wayne Rodekop made an appearance and was welcomed warmly by all those in attendance. He took the time to speak with volunteers and to sit and break bread with families.

Mayor Rodekop also was taken on a tour of the Bell Tower to see first-hand what exciting projects are planned for this soon to become community icon.

Marc and Noel LeBoeuf purchased the former Methodist United church at 575 Central Avenue in the historic Bridgeburg District on Aug. 5, 2016, and rebranded it the Bell Tower Community Arts and Entertainment Complex, with the goal of providing a safe commu-

nity space for all. With the help of city departments, the Bridgeburg BIA and many volunteers the Bell Tower, as it is affectionately known, is becoming the beacon to draw people back into Fort Erie's historic downtown.

Marc and Noel and their Bell Tower family say they are proud to be part of Fort Erie community, and look forward to providing quality entertainment and events for all. Stay

tuned the exciting events planned for 2017. More information is available on the website, www.thebelltowercommunity.com

Marc and Noel want to personally thank all those who volunteered, all those companies and individuals who donated the turkeys, hams, and all the fixings, desserts, cutlery and plates and everything in between. They say this will become an annual event getting bet-

ter each year. A very heartfelt thank for being welcomed by the Town of Fort Erie, and proud to be involved in it's revitalization.

Marc and Noel along with their Bell Tower family want to wish all a happy and healthy holiday and only the best in the New Year.

-Contributed by Chris Biasucci of the Bell Tower Community Arts and Entertainment Complex

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MIKE DIAMATIS/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Cold weather moving into Niagara means the annual bird migration is underway along the Niagara River. Neil Skewington, left, from Hickson, Ont., and Richard Hickson, from Brantford, spend a day birding along the river above the falls near Chippawa. The river between Niagara Falls and Fort Erie is a hot spot for birders at this time of year.

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A win and two losses for Meteors

KRIS DURE
Special to the Times

The Fort Erie Jr. B Meteors responded to a 5-3 loss to the Niagara Falls Canucks with a 5-2 win over the Pelham Panthers on Saturday.

Playing for a third consecutive day, they also lost to the Welland Jr. Canadians on Sunday by a score of 7-3.

After a scoreless first period in Niagara Falls on Friday, the Meteors developed a two-goal lead in the second, before the Canucks netted one late near the 40-minute mark and scored three early in the third period.

Down 4-2, the Meteors inched closer with an extra attacker on the ice but Niagara Falls solidified the win with an empty net goal, taking it 5-3.

Danny Katie scored twice (including an empty net goal), as well as Dakota Misakci.

On Saturday, Fort Erie held a comfortable 3-0 lead after the first period with two goals from Daylon Groulx and one from Cail Cirillo. Jordan Russell scored in the second and Bryan Zurowski found the back of the net in the third period, capping off a 5-3 win.

Scoring for the Meteors in Sunday's 7-3 loss to Welland were Zurowski, Alexander Walters and Katie.

The Meteors played their last game before the holiday break in Buffalo on Tuesday night. The results were not known at press time.

The three weekend games for the Meteors left them with a 12-20 record.

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KAIL McCULLAGH



Thank you to All my wonderful Clients. I'd like to wish you all a Very Happy Holiday Season. I'd like to welcome new clients to come and visit me in the New Year. Thank you again, to everyone. Merry Christmas

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Sunday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day Service 10 am

You are welcomed to wear your jammies if you like

"There is ALWAYS room at our Inn"

(Corner of Dominion and Ridge Rd in downtown Ridgeway)



stjohnsstevensvilleunitedchurch.com

One Sunday we asked how many worshippers were "born into" this congregation, or churches now folded into SJS. At 25% the number seemed higher than is often the case. So we asked how many were born baptized and raised in the United Church of Canada, and the number went up a mere 15% to a total of 40%. The rest were no longer comfortable elsewhere (5%), came here out of convenience (10%), with friends (10%), or "married into" the United Church 35%. This is a welcoming church. You don't need to be born here or to get married here to feel at home. Why not resolve to worship here on the first Sunday of the New Year?

Sunday worship service 11:00 am; only minutes to Sodom Rd, Ft. Erie, just north of Stevensville, QEW exits 16 & 17

We look forward to hearing from you. Call or stop in at 336 Central Ave. Fort Erie

905-871-3100 ext. 524204



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Miscellaneous

REMEMBER
Take care of your mail / garbage / recycle recycle for Christmas. They take care of US all year long!
MX - 213
Highland Ave.

Miscellaneous

St. Vincent De Paul
36 Jarvis St. 905-871-0203
Used furniture, clothing & household items
Drop off between 10am - 4pm
(After hours drop offs disappear)
We will pick up large items
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1 Bdrm renovated Lower Unit \$700/mo + utilities. No pets / non-smoking. FL., Sec. & Util. Deposit. req. 905-871-5823

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General Help Wanted

General Help Wanted

General Help Wanted

The Fort Erie Times

Trouble shooter required in the Crescent Park area to deliver down routes. Deliveries to mailboxes only. If interested, contact Petrina at 905-871-3100 ext. 1 or Pistok@postmedia.com

Public Notices

Public Notices

Public Notices

DECEMBER 29, 2016 Deadline

Editorial Content:

Thursday, December 22nd ~ 11 am

Retail & Classified ads:

Friday, December 23rd ~ 11 am

JANUARY 5, 2017 Deadline

Editorial Content:

Thursday, December 29th ~ 11 am

Retail & Classified ads:

Friday, December 30th ~ 11 am

If you would like to speak with the Editor please call 905-468-3283 Ext. 103
If you would like to place a Retail or Classified ad, please call 905-871-3100 Ext. 524202 for Retail and 524201 for Classified.

Please leave a message and we will call you back.

We wish you all a wonderful Holiday!

General Help Wanted

General Help Wanted

General Help Wanted

The Fort Erie Times

ROUTES AVAILABLE

Fort Erie

Dodds Crt, Phlips - 75 papers
Bowden, Lewis, Prow - 56 papers
Highland, Bowen - 55 papers

Crescent Park

Parkdale, Lakehurst - 59 papers
Scott, Ferndale - 65 papers

Ridgeway

Connection - 30 papers
Dominion, Prospect - 35 papers



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Public Notices

JAMES GREENALL or anyone knowing of his whereabouts, please contact Manju John at (905) 937-7731 or 1-888-937-7731 ext. 4437
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MARY ANNE BLAND or anyone knowing of her whereabouts, please contact Manju John at (905) 937-7731 or 1-888-937-7731 ext. 4437
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Houses for Rent

SHORT Term Rental 6 mo. 3 BD, 1 BA house, detached garage, Available Jan. 1st. \$930/month + util. 1050 Garrison Rd. Call 905-704-8428

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Happy Birthday Josh



To the best Son, Friend and Daddy anyone could ask for
We love you toward
Mom, Steve, Shanaa, Alyssa,
& your fur family.

Obituaries Obituaries

GARDINER, Barbara Joan (nee Dolson) -
It is with profound sadness that her family announces her passing on December 12, 2016 in her 81st year. Loving Mother of Alan, Marcia (Ron) and Diane (Mitch), Grandma of Jillian (Jesse), Erich and Cameron. She will be sadly missed by her sisters Diane Benner (Sandy) and Linda Walsh (Ron). Special Aunt to Tom, Deb, Kiki, Amanda, Kaitlin, Brooke, Victoria and Chloe. Predeceased by her husband Ron Gardiner, Special friend Brian Culum and her Daughter Carolyn. Barb spent her career in the Brokerage Community and will be missed by many many friends. Heartfelt thanks to Alan, Nik, Casey, Tracy, Sherry, Brenda, Bob, Linda and Ron and the entire staff at Gilmore Lodge for the excellent and compassionate care mom received. A Celebration of Life to follow in January. Arrangements entrusted
NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES,
905-894-0120.

WILLIAMS, L. Cameron - Born March 19th, 1950 in Fort Erie, "Cam" died suddenly on December 13th, 2016 at the Greater Niagara General Hospital in Niagara Falls at age 66. Loving husband of Susan Merritt and devoted family man. Chartered father of Catherine Williams (Matty Grossman) and Blake Williams (Nicole Bradley). Predeceased by his parents Bud and Lauretta Williams and his brother Malcolm. Sadly missed by his sister-in-law Sandy Williams and family. Also sadly missed by his brother-in-law Dr. Richard Merritt and sister-in-law Dr. Nancy Smith and family. Cam had a wonderful sense of humour and enjoyed birding and the wonders of the natural world. He was a partner in the Fort Erie law firm of Ruch and Williams and retired in 2012. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES**, 722 Ridge Rd. N. Ridgeway is entrusted with arrangements. Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Service will be held at a date to be decided in the spring of 2017.

In Memoriams

In Memoriams

PALOVIC, Alexandra Sandra age 70 of Fort Erie, Ontario passed away on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at Douglas Memorial Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer. She was the beloved wife of Vukasin Victor Peaukic of Fort Erie and loving mother of Lily Makor of Orangeville, Ontario. Alexandra was an incredible, loving, kind and generous person. She loved to travel around the world with her husband, Victor. She also enjoyed cooking, baking, chatting and simply spending time with her friends and family. At Alexandra's request, the service will be a private event for immediate family and close friends only. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Angels are watching over you
Wings wrapped gently around you,
Whispering you are loved and blessed.
Angel Bl. Bano

EVERTS, Linda Anne
June 28, 1943 - December 21, 2014
In loving memory of a dear wife and devoted daughter. Missed by her husband, Bob and by the Purpura and Everts families and special friends.
Always loved, Never forgotten.

In Memoriams In Memoriams



BRAD NAPPER
Six years have passed and we think of you every day.
Your one year old grandson, Austin William, has your great smile and your laugh.
Love always
Mom and Dad xxx

MARTIN, Stephen - In loving memory of our dear son, Stephen, who passed away December 23rd, 2000.
*Those we love we never lose
For always they will be
Loved, remembered, treasured
In our memory*
- Missing a dear son and remembering all the good times shared with our family and friends.
Love, Mom & Dad




HANES, Charles H. Jr.
March 18, 1932 - Dec 21, 2013

Our brother Charles was a prince of a guy.
He was taken too early,
one wonders why.
Without his good spirit,
family gatherings more dimly glow.
Still loved and sorely missed by all of his family.

In Memoriams In Memoriams

Frank & Flora Plorkowski Julia Innes (Plorkowski)
In loving memory of my parents:
Frank (July 15, 2009)
And Flora (December 12, 1991)
And my sister, Julia (February 23, 2011)
*Those we love remain with us
For love itself lives on,
And cherished memories never fade
Because a loved one is gone.
Those we love can never be
More than a thought apart,
For as long as there is memory,
They will live on in the heart.*
Remembered with love,
Cathy, Oscar and Jennifer Ellinger.



Mary and Murray McGregor
*With all the celebrations
And Christmas drawing near
What a lovely time we'd have
If only you both were here*
*We'd spend so many happy hours
The way we did before
Christmas is far lovelier ones
and I couldn't miss you both more*
*When I wake up Christmas day
I'll look to Heaven above
and I'll remember every smile
and think of you both with love.*
Love Skip, Joanne, and Trista

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 we leave behind
 is not to die. -

Thomas Campbell



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The guardian angels of life fly so high
 as to be beyond our sight, but they
 are always looking down upon us.

Jean Paul Richter



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SAVE \$200 TRUE NORTH TN20 Wood insert <i>sale</i> \$999 reg. \$1199	SAVE \$300 VALOR CLASSIC Gas Insert, installed <i>sale</i> \$2999 reg. \$3299	SAVE \$500 MAJESTIC MERCURY with Mantel <i>sale</i> \$2999 reg. \$3499	SAVE \$400 KOZY HEAT BAYPORT 36 Direct Vent, installed <i>sale</i> \$3299 reg. \$3699

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